



swamp buttercup

Ranunculus septentrionalis

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Swamp buttercup is a perennial herb. Its stems may be upright or along the ground. They are branched, smooth, and up to two feet long. The leaves usually are divided into three segments, which may be further divided and toothed. They are arranged alternately along the stem. The yellow, waxy flowers, up to 1 1/2 inches wide, grow at the tip of the stems. The single, dry seeds are grouped in a "cone." Each seed is flat and has a beak.

Natural History

Swamp buttercup grows in moist woods. It flowers from April through June and often again in autumn. The fruits provide a good source of food for waterfowl. It is uncommon in the northwest part of the state and common elsewhere.

Habitats

bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.